

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) Procedure A method for manufacturing a thin porous layer with open porosity in accordance with one of the claims 1 to 6 from a mixture comprising a sinterable powder having a predeterminable powder particle size distribution, whereby wherein the thickness of the layer corresponds to at least about three times the average diameter of the powder particles used and has a defined pore diameter between about 0.01 μm and about 50 μm and a tensile strength between about 5 and about 500 N/mm², and wherein the sinterable powder is made up of a mixture containing sinterable powder and the sinterable powder with a predetermined size distribution of powder particles is suspended in a carrier fluid having a predetermined size distribution of said powder particles along with particles of pore forming material having the a defined predetermined size as pore forming material is suspended in a carrier fluid., wherein said carrier fluid is applied to a supporting body in at least one thin layer and dried, and the resulting green layer is sintered. It is applied in at least one layer on a carrier body, dried and the green layer thus formed is sintered.

8. (Currently amended) Procedure in accordance with The method of claim 7, wherein marked by the correspondence of the portion of pore forming materials in the suspension to the metallic layer to be produced in about the defined pore volume the proportion of the pore forming material in the suspension approximately corresponds to the predetermined pore volume of the resulting sintered metal layer.

9. (Currently amended) Procedure in accordance with The method of claim 7 or 8 marked by, wherein the forming of the carrier fluid comprises a by the binding agent liquefied with in a solvent.

10. (Currently amended) Procedure in accordance with one of the The method of claim 7 to 9 marked by wherein pore forming materials of different densities and/or sizes are suspended in the solvent for to obtaining a sintered metal layer with a graded layer design structure.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 10 marked by wherein the application of the suspension is applied in many partial layers one after another on the carrier body.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 11 marked by wherein ~~drying of the earlier~~ each partial layer is at least partially dried before the application of the next partial layer.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 12 marked by ~~the~~ wherein ~~sintering of the earlier~~ each partial layer is sintered before application of the next partial layer.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 13 marked by ~~the~~ wherein application of the suspension ~~on~~ is applied to the carrier body by the process of thin layer pouring, spraying or immersing.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 14 marked by ~~the~~ wherein application of the suspension ~~on~~ is applied on at least ~~on~~ one of the walls of a porous, ~~preferably~~ pipe-shaped carrier body made from sinterable material, and dried, and the green layer thus formed is subsequently ~~firmly~~ sintered on the carrier body.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Procedure in accordance with one of the~~ The method of claims 7 to 15 marked by wherein the rotation of the pipe-shaped carrier body rotates around the axis of the pipe during application of the suspension and ~~at least~~ during at least some part of the drying period.

17. (Cancelled)